

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 20, lines 5-11 with the following paragraph:

The primers used to isolate the PAC clone (reference example B4) were selected for PCR on the G3 radiation hybrid panel from Stanford commercially available from Research Genetics (Huntsville, Alabama). The positive lanes and negative patterns were analysed using the public web server at Stanford University (<http://www-sghe.stanford.edu>). After analysis the hVR1 gene appears to be located on human chromosome 17 around marker SHGC-36073 (lod score=9.95).

Please replace the paragraph at page 29, lines 19-27 with the following paragraph:

The 3' terminus, including the 3' UTR sequence of hVR3 was used to design two primers to amplify a product of 360 bp: sense primer 5' ATGGCCACCAAGCAGGGTTAC and antisense primer 5' TCTGCCAGGTTCCAGCTG. The G3 radiation hybrid panel from Stanford University (Research Genetics, Huntsville, Alabama) was screened by PCR. The positive and negative lanes were analysed using the public web server at Stanford University (<http://www-sghe.stanford.edu>). After analysis the hVR3 gene appears to be located on human chromosome 12 around markers D12S177E (lod score=15) and D12S1893 (lod score=14).